

Message Text

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NESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, UNESCO, IS

SUBJECT: VISIT OF UNESCO TEAM TO OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

REFS: (A) PARIS 26890 (B) PARIS 27124 (C) PARIS 27142

(D) PARIS 27286

1. DURING A MEETING ON ANOTHER SUBJECT WITH THE MFA OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR UNESCO MATTERS (BAR-YAACOV, DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIVISION), HE SHOWED US THE TEST OF THE LETTER FROM FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON TO UNESCO DIRECTOR GENERAL M'BOW REGARDING THE VISIT TO ISRAEL OF THE TEAM DESIGNATED TO STUDY EDUCATION IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. ASKED ABOUT THE MEANING OF THE REFERENCE IN THE LETTER TO THE INABILITY OF AUTHORITIES IN THE TERRITORIES "TO COPE WITH THE MISSION" AT THE TIME PROPOSED, BAR-YAACOV SAID IT WAS A REFERENCE TO THE POSSIBILITY--WHICH HE HOPES IS MINIMAL--OF DEMONSTRATIONS, AS WELL AS A REMINDER THAT VISITS TO THE TERRITORIES HAVE TO BE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF MILITARY AUTHORITIES

AS TO WHOM THE GOI WOULD CONSIDER TO BE A SUITABLE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE. HE PROPOSED A MEMBER OF THE DG'S STAFF SUCH AS ASSISTANT DG NEUMANN, OR BENIN REPRESENTATIVE BOSSIER PALUM,
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OR MMD. MARID PIERRE HERZOG WHO PREPARED THE 1974 REPORT ON THE

TERRITORIES, OR EVEN BELGIAN PROFESSOR LEMAIRE, WHO HAS PREVIOUSLY VISITED JERUSALEM TO VIEW THE EXCAVATIONS FOR UNESCO.

2. REGARDING THE QUESTION OF POSSIBLE FLEXIBILITY IN THE ISREALI POSITION, OUR VIEW IS THAT WHILE THE INABILITY OF THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES TO COPE WITH THE UNESCO MISSION MAY BE DISINGENUOUS THE OTHER REASONS ARE PROBABLY VALID. FOR EXAMPLE, THE ABSENCE OR INVOLVEMENT OF MFA OFFICIALS IN UNGA OR UNESCO GC ACTIVITIES WOULD BE A REAL PROBLEM, GIVEN THE SMALL STAFF OF THE MFA. WE FEEL, HOWEVER, THAT AN UNSTATED REASON MAY BE THE PRIMARY DESIRE FOR DELAY: ISRAEL PROBABLY WANTS DELIBERATELY TO WAIT UNTIL AFTER THE NAIROBI GENERAL CONFERENCE TO DECIDE HOW FORTHCOMING IT WISHES TO BE ON ACCOMMODATING THE VISIT. IT WILL PROBABLY BASE ITS DECISION ON THE STATEMENTS AND ACTIONS OF ARAB AND THIRD WOULD COUNTRIES THERE AND WE, THEREFORE, SEE LITTLE LIKELIHOOD OF ANY FLEXIBILITY AT THIS TIME.
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